

U.S. VISAS

U.S. Department of State • Bureau of Consular Affairs



THE BUSINESS VISA CENTER

Visa Facilitation For Business Travelers

The Department of State encourages business-related travel to the United States both here, and at our more than 200 embassies or consulates abroad. The Business Visa Center within the Visa Office in Washington, D.C. is a key element that supports international business travel, U.S. commerce abroad, and the U.S. economy.

The Business Visa Center assists businesses and organizations located in the United States by providing information about the application process for business visa (B1) travel to the United States. We can explain the visa process to U.S. companies and organizations that invite employees, current and prospective business clients, partners, or athletes. We also provide information to U.S. conference and event organizers that expect a large number of foreign visitors. The Business Visa Center handled over 6,660 inquiries from American businesses and organizations for information and assistance in 2012. We continuously seek to identify the needs of the business traveler based on feedback received.

What the Business Visa Center Cannot Do

The Business Visa Center cannot expedite interview appointments or the processing of visa applications. All U.S. embassies and consulates have established procedures to expedite applications for business travelers. Additionally, we cannot guarantee the issuance of a visa or decide the merits of an application for a visa. The consular officer at the embassy or consulate overseas will make those decisions during the application process.

It is important to understand that U.S. embassies and consulates are responsible under immigration law for processing visa applications and the decision whether to issue a visa to a foreign citizen to travel to the United States. Contacting the Business Visa Center does not alter the steps in the visa process. An applicant must still follow all instructions listed on the embassy or consulate's website.

Improved information for businesses and the public, in the form of up-to-date details about wait times for interviews and processing times, is available on most embassy websites, and at travel.state.gov. This information allows business travelers to better prepare for their interview and to better plan their trip.

How to Contact the Business Visa Center

For inquiries falling within the scope of the Business Visa Center's services, please email businessvisa@state.gov (preferred means of contact) or call 202-663-3198, Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Washington, DC time).

